

MACON, GEORGIA
NEWS

e. 23,319

Front Edit Other
Page Page Page

Date: JAN 18 1965

STATINTL

Former Castro Officer Sees Internal Decay in America

A former commander of the Cuban Air Force under Fidel Castro said here Tuesday night that America "is rapidly approaching the same state of internal decay that infested Cuba prior to the overthrow of Batista in 1955."

Major Pedro H. Diaz Lanz, who resigned his post with the Castro government in 1959, spoke at a rally in the Ambassador Hotel, which was sponsored by the Christian Crusade, an anti-Communist organization founded in 1948 in Tulsa, Okla.

Major Lanz is currently engaged in a tour of the southeast, representing Evangelist Bill James Hargis, director of the organization.

He said that Communists are working toward neutralizing the United States both militarily and mentally. Describing them as "internal gangsters," Major Lanz said that Americans can become aware of Communist

party activities in the United States if such organizations as the Christian Crusade, radio and press, inform the public. In this way, he said, "the public will learn what Communism really means: fear, hate and murder."

The former commander attributed the spread of Communism in Cuba in the 1920's to the lack of organizations which could have alerted the people to its dangers.

Lanz said he and his wife escaped from Cuba in 1959, and upon his arrival in Miami, were asked by the CIA not to inform the American people of the facts about Communism under Castro.

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